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Sixty-fifth anniversary of the end of the Second World War

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Letter dated 15 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the international community on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, adopted at the meeting of CIS heads of State held in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) on 9 October 2009 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the aforementioned statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 126, and of the Security Council, in preparation for the special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly to be held on this issue on 6 May 2010.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 15 April 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the heads of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States to the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the international community on the occasion of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945

On 9 May 2010, the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the victory of the Soviet peoples in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945. In a war of unprecedented tension and brutality, the multi-ethnic people of the Soviet Union and their Armed Forces defended the freedom and independence of their homeland and spared many countries of the world from fascist enslavement.

On the front lines and on the home front, our peoples made personal sacrifices and demonstrated great heroism, patriotism and internationalism, as well as unprecedented resistance, without which victory would have been impossible. History has never known such resistance. Nor has it known such a desire for victory.

The greatness of the feat accomplished by our peoples has not faded with the passing of the years. The further away we are from that event, the clearer we recognize the significance of the historic mission of those soldiers who, through their victory, defended the right to a future. Therefore, in addressing the peoples of the States members of the Commonwealth and the international community, we say a thank you today to the surviving veterans in our States. We encourage these valiant heroes to be honoured not only in words but also in deeds, and we call for the everyday concerns of participants in the war and workers on the home front to be addressed, for their needs to be met, and for them to be provided with decent living conditions.

Victory Day on 9 May remains for our peoples a day of justice, pride and nationwide sorrow for the millions who perished in this wantonly cruel and brutal war. The names of those who bravely laid down their lives in the years of the Great Patriotic War are sacred and dear to us. We are eternally indebted to those who defended the homeland — and thus our freedom — at the cost of their own lives.

We shall not forget the heroism of soldiers and workers on the home front who saved the world from fascism. We therefore urge that the memory of those who died for the freedom and independence of their homeland should be held sacred; that constant care should be taken to duly preserve and maintain military grave sites, memorials, monuments and obelisks, as well as the graves of partisans, underground fighters and prisoners of fascist camps; and that the search should be intensified for the remains of soldiers and civilians who died at the hands of fascist invaders during the Great Patriotic War.

We do not set our victory apart from the victory of others and we have always paid tribute to the bravery of those who resisted Nazism. We remember the contribution to the victory made by our allies in the anti-Hitler coalition, and their assistance to us. However, the scene of the largest-scale and, ultimately, major

events was the Soviet-German front. During the war years our countries lost tens of millions of citizens. The people killed on the battlefield belonged to all nationalities.

Given that the peoples of our States made a decisive contribution to the achievement of the victory, we call for the younger generation to be raised with a sense of pride in our shared heroic history and in the great triumph achieved over fascism.

Reiterating our commitment to the universally recognized principles and rules of international law, the provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act, we call for active cooperation to strengthen security and stability in the world, greater efforts to combat international terrorism and extremism, the peaceful political settlement of existing conflicts and the prevention of potential conflicts.